

In the claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A method for promoting one or more of proliferation, differentiation, or survival of a dopaminergic neuronal cell, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a Sonic hedgehog polypeptide effective to promote one or more of proliferation, differentiation, or survival of said neuronal cell, wherein said Sonic hedgehog polypeptide comprises ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence designated in ~~at least one of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID No:11, SEQ ID No:12, SEQ ID No:13,~~ or an N-terminal fragment thereof having a molecular weight of approximately 19 kDa, and wherein said amino acid sequence ~~Sonic hedgehog polypeptide~~ binds a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and promotes hedgehog signaling.
2. **(Currently amended)** A method for promoting one or more of proliferation, differentiation, or survival of a mammalian neuronal cell responsive to hedgehog induction, wherein the mammalian neuronal cell is a dopaminergic neuron or a motor neuron, comprising contacting the cell with an amount of a Sonic hedgehog polypeptide effective to promote, relative to the cell in the absence of hedgehog treatment, at least one of (i) rate of proliferation, (ii) differentiation, or (iii) survival of the cell, wherein said Sonic hedgehog polypeptide comprises ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence designated in ~~at least one of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID No:11, SEQ ID No:12, SEQ ID No:13,~~ or an N-terminal fragment thereof having a molecular weight of approximately 19 kDa, and wherein said amino acid sequence ~~Sonic hedgehog polypeptide~~ binds a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and promotes hedgehog signaling.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, which polypeptide mimics the effects of a naturally-occurring hedgehog protein on said cell.
4. **(Cancelled)**
5. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 2, wherein the neuronal cell is a dopaminergic neuron.
6. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein the N-terminal fragment is ~~an~~ the

N-terminal auto-proteolytic fragment of ~~SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, or~~  
SEQ ID NO: 13.

7-10. **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 2, wherein the polypeptide promotes the differentiation of said neuronal cell.

12. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 11, wherein said neuronal cell is a dopaminergic neuron.

13. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide promotes survival of said neuronal cell.

14-22. **(Cancelled)**

23. **(Currently amended)** A method for inducing a cell to differentiate to a dopaminergic neuron or a motor neuron, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a Sonic hedgehog polypeptide effective to induce said cell to differentiate to a dopaminergic neuron or a motor neuron, wherein said Sonic hedgehog polypeptide comprises ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence designated in ~~at least one of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID No:11, SEQ ID No:12, SEQ ID No:13, or~~ an N-terminal fragment thereof having a molecular weight of approximately 19 kDa, and wherein said amino acid sequence ~~Sonic hedgehog polypeptide~~ binds a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and promotes hedgehog signaling.

24. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 23, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a Sonic hedgehog polypeptide effective to induce said cell to differentiate to a dopaminergic neuron.

25. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 24, wherein the N-terminal fragment is the ~~an~~ N-terminal auto-proteolytic fragment of ~~SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, or~~

SEQ ID NO: 13.

26. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 23, wherein the N-terminal fragment is the ~~an~~ N-terminal auto-proteolytic fragment of ~~SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, or~~ SEQ ID NO: 13.

27-48. **(Cancelled)**

49. **(Currently amended)** A method for inducing a cell to differentiate to a dopaminergic neuron or a motor neuron, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a Sonic hedgehog polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions, including a wash step of 0.2X SSC at 65 °C, to ~~[[a]]~~ the nucleic acid sequence designated in ~~selected from~~ SEQ ID No: 1, SEQ ID No: 4, SEQ ID No: 5, and SEQ ID No: 6, wherein said amino acid sequence ~~hedgehog polypeptide~~ has a molecular weight of approximately 19 kDa and binds to a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor, and wherein said amount is effective to induce a cell to differentiate to a dopaminergic neuron or a motor neuron.

50. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 49, wherein said hedgehog polypeptide comprises ~~an~~ the N-terminal auto-proteolytic fragment of ~~SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, or~~ SEQ ID NO: 13.

51. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 49, wherein said cell is induced to differentiate to a dopaminergic neuron.

52. **(Currently amended)** A method for promoting one or more of proliferation, differentiation, or survival of a neural stem cell, comprising contacting the cell with an amount of a Sonic hedgehog polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions, including a wash step of 0.2X SSC at 65 °C or higher stringency, to ~~[[a]]~~ the nucleic acid sequence designated in ~~selected from~~ SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 5, and SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein said amino acid sequence ~~hedgehog polypeptide~~ has a molecular weight of approximately 19 kDa and binds to a naturally occurring

hedgehog receptor, and wherein said amount is effective to promote proliferation, differentiation, or survival of the neural stem cell.

53. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 52, wherein said polypeptide comprises the an N-terminal auto-proteolytic fragment of ~~SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID No:11, SEQ ID No:12, or~~ SEQ ID No:13.

54. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 52, wherein said hedgehog polypeptide promotes proliferation of said neural stem cell.

55. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 52, wherein said hedgehog polypeptide promotes differentiation of said neural stem cell to a dopaminergic neuron.

56. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 52, wherein said hedgehog polypeptide promotes survival of said neural stem cell.

57. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 53, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of said hedgehog polypeptide effective to promote proliferation of said neural stem cell.

58. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 53, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of said hedgehog polypeptide effective to promote differentiation of said neural stem cell to a dopaminergic neuron.

59. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 53, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of said hedgehog polypeptide effective to promote survival of said neural stem cell.

60. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 2, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of said hedgehog polypeptide effective to promote proliferation of said neuronal cell.

61. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of said hedgehog polypeptide effective to promote proliferation of said neuronal cell.

62. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 2, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of said hedgehog polypeptide effective to promote survival of said neuronal cell.

63. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 61, wherein the N-terminal fragment is the ~~an~~ N-terminal auto-proteolytic fragment of ~~SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, or~~ SEQ ID NO: 13.

64. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 62, wherein the N-terminal fragment is the ~~an~~ N-terminal auto-proteolytic fragment of ~~SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, or~~ SEQ ID NO: 13.

65. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 6, comprising contacting said cell with an amount of said hedgehog polypeptide effective to promote survival of said neuronal cell.

66. **(Currently amended)** A method for promoting one or more of proliferation, differentiation, or survival of a dopaminergic neuronal cell, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote one or more of proliferation, differentiation, or survival of said neuronal cell.

67. **(Currently amended)** A method for promoting one or more of proliferation, differentiation, or survival of a mammalian neuronal cell responsive to hedgehog induction, wherein the mammalian neuronal cell is a dopaminergic neuron or a motor neuron, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote one or more of proliferation, differentiation, or survival of said neuronal cell.

68. **(Currently amended)** A method for promoting one or more of proliferation, differentiation, or survival of a neural stem cell, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an

amount effective to promote one or more of proliferation, differentiation, or survival of said neural stem cell.

69. **(Currently amended)** A method for inducing a cell to differentiate to a dopaminergic neuron or a motor neuron, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote differentiation of said cell to a dopaminergic neuron or a motor neuron.

70. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 69, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote differentiation of said cell to a dopaminergic neuron.

71. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 68, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote proliferation of said neural stem cell.

72. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 68, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote differentiation of said neural stem cell.

73. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 68, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote survival of said neural stem cell.

74. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 66, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote survival of said neuronal cell.

75. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 67, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote survival of said neuronal cell.

76. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 75, wherein said neuronal cell is a dopaminergic neuron.

77. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 66, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote proliferation of said neuronal cell.

78. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 67, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote proliferation of said neuronal cell.

79. **(Currently amended)** A method for promoting one or more of proliferation or survival of an adult mammalian neuronal cell responsive to hedgehog induction, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote one or more of proliferation or survival of said neuronal cell.

80. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 79, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote proliferation of said neuronal cell.

81. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 79, comprising contacting said cell with means for binding a naturally occurring hedgehog receptor and thereby promoting hedgehog signaling in an amount effective to promote survival of said neuronal cell.